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Jas. P. Barrett & Co., Publishers.

TEACHING FRENCH.  
BY THEODORE LITTON.  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire.  
(To love, to love, this is to live.)  
Teach you French? I will my dear  
sit and on your lesson here.  
What did Adam say to Eve?  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire.  
Steve, I said: but what's the harm  
if I really meant your arm?  
Mine shall twist it, (by your leave.)  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire.  
Learning French is full of slips;  
Do as I do with the lips.  
Here's the right way, you perceive,  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire.  
French is always spoken best  
Breathing deeply from the chest;  
Darling, does your bosom heave?  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire.  
Now, my darling little spirit,  
Have I taught your lesson right?  
Then what pay shall I receive?  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire.  
Will you think me overbold,  
If I linger to be told  
Whether you yourself believe  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire?  
Pretty pupil, when you say  
All this French to me to-day,  
Do you mean it, or deceive?  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire.  
Tell me, may I understand,  
When I press your little hand,  
That our hearts together clasp?  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire.  
Have you in your treasure room  
For some orange buds to bloom?  
May I such a garland weave?  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire.  
Or, if I presume too much,  
Teaching French by sense of touch,  
Grant me pardon and reprieve,  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire.  
Sweetheart, no! You cannot go,  
Let me sit and hold you so,  
Adam did the same to Eve,  
Aimer, aimer, c'est à dire.

## LED ASTRAY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF  
OCTAVE FEUILLET.

George L.—to Paul B., Paris.

ROSEL, 15th September.  
It's nine o'clock in the evening, my dear  
friend, and you have just arrived from  
Germany. They had my letter, the  
postmark of which informs you at once  
that I am absent from Paris. You indulged  
in a gesture of annoyance, and call me a  
vagabond. Nevertheless, you settle down  
in your best armchair, you open my letter,  
and you read that I have been for the  
past five days domiciled in a flour-mill in  
Lower Normandy. In a flour-mill, you  
say, that does sound like a very young  
man's idea of being in a mill! A  
wrinkle appears on your forehead, your  
eyebrows are drawn together, you lay  
down my letter for a moment; you attempt  
to penetrate this mystery by the unaided  
power of your imagination. Suddenly a  
playful expression beams upon your coun-  
tenance, your mouth expresses the irony  
of a wise man tempered by the indulgence  
of a friend; you have caught a glimpse  
through an opera-company cloud, of a  
waist all trimmed with gay ribbons, a light  
and short skirt, and stockings with gilded  
claws; in short, you know where the  
mill's wife, whose heart goes pit-a-pat, is  
with a hunt-brotherly accompaniment. But the  
graces who are ever sporting in your  
mind sometimes lead it astray, my fair  
miller is as much like the creature of your  
imagination as I am like a youthful Cæsar;  
her head is adorned with a towering coiffe,  
that night cap, to which the thick, pos-  
sible coating of flour fails to restore its  
primitive color; she wears a coarse wooden  
petticoat which would abrade the hide of an  
elephant; in short, it frequently happens to  
me to confound the miller's wife with him-  
self, after which it is sufficient to add that  
I am not the least curious to know whether  
or not her heart goes pit-a-pat. The  
truth is, that, not knowing how to kill  
time in your absence, and having no rea-  
son to expect you to return before another  
month (it's your own fault), I solicited a  
mission. The Council-General of the  
Department of Calvados, and, quite  
opportunistically, ex officio, the Council  
of a certain ruined abbey, called Rosel  
Abbey, should be classed among historical  
monuments. I have been commissioned  
to investigate closely the candidate's  
titles. I hastened with all possible speed  
to the chief town of this arrondissement,  
where I effected my quarters in a room  
of a hundred leagues. I called at the pre-  
fect's while still laboring under the effect  
of this disappointment; the *prefet*, Valton,  
whom you know very well, received me  
with his usual affability; but to the ques-  
tion I addressed him on the subject of  
the condition of the ruins which the coun-  
cil seemed so desirous of preserving, the  
admiration of its constituents, he replied,  
with an absent smile, that his wife, who  
had visited these ruins on the occasion of  
an excursion into the country, while she  
was sojourning on the sea-shore, could tell  
me a great deal more about the ruins than  
he could possibly do. He called on his wife,  
he invited me to dinner, and in the eve-  
ning, Madame Valton, after the usual  
struggles of expiring modesty, showed me,  
in her album, some views of the famous  
ruins sketched with considerable taste.  
She became mildly excited while speaking  
to me of these venerable remains, and, if  
I like to be believed, in the midst of an  
enchanted smile, and, above all, particu-  
larly well suited for picnics and country  
excursions. A beseeching and corrupting  
look terminated her harangue. It seems  
evident to me that this worthy lady is the  
only person in the department who takes  
any real interest in the poor old Abbey,  
and that the conscript fathers of the gen-  
eral council have passed their resolution  
authorizing an investigation out of pure  
gallantry. It is impossible for me, how-  
ever, not to concur in their opinion—the  
Abbey has beautiful eyes; she deserves to  
be classed, she should be classed.  
My decision was, therefore, settled from  
that moment, but it was still necessary to

# THE HARTFORD HERALD.

"I COME, THE HERALD OF A NOISY WORLD, THE NEWS OF ALL NATIONS LUMBERING AT MY BACK."  
VOL. 1. HARTFORD, OHIO COUNTY, KY., MARCH 3, 1875. NO. 9.

write it down and back it with some docu-  
mentary evidence. Unfortunately, the  
local archives and libraries do not abound  
in traditions relative to my subject; after  
two or three fruitless excursions rambling,  
I had collected but a few rare and insignifi-  
cant documents, which may be summed up  
in these two lines: "Rosel Abbey, in  
Rosel township, was inhabited from time  
immemorial by monks, who left it when  
it fell in ruins."  
I resolved to go without  
further delay, and ask their secret of these  
mysterious ruins, and to multiply, if need  
be, the artifices of my pencil, to make up  
for the compulsory confession of my pen.  
I left on Wednesday morning for the town  
of Vitry, which is only two or three leagues  
distant from the Abbey. A Norman coachman,  
complained of the Norman coachman,  
jogged me about all day, like an indolent  
monarch, along the Norman hedges.  
When night came, I had traveled twelve  
miles and my coachman had taken twelve  
meals. The country is fine, though of a  
character somewhat monotonously rustic.  
Under everlasting groves is displayed an  
opulent and monotonous verdure, in the  
thickness of which contented-looking oxen  
ruminated. I can understand my coach-  
man's twelve meals; the idea of eating  
must occur frequently and almost exclu-  
sively in the imagination of the French  
people, in the midst of this rich na-  
ture, the very grass of which gives an ap-  
petite.

Toward evening, however, the aspect of  
the landscape changed; we entered a rolling  
prairie, quite low, marshy, bare as a  
Russian steppe, and extending on both  
sides of the road; the sound of the wheels  
on the caseyway assumed a hollow and  
vibrating sonority; dark-colored reeds and  
tall, unhealthy looking grass covered, as  
far as the eye could reach, the blackish  
surface of the marsh. I noticed in the  
distance, through the deepening twilight,  
and behind a cloud of rain, two or three  
horsemen running at full speed, and as if  
demoted, through these boundless spaces,  
they disappeared at intervals in the de-  
pressions of the meadows, and suddenly  
came to sight again, still galloping with  
the same frenzy. I could not imagine to-  
wards what imaginary goal these equestrian  
phantoms were thus madly rushing.  
I took good care not to inquire; mystery  
is a sweet and sacred thing.  
The next morning, I started for the Ab-  
bey, taking with me in my cabriolet a tall  
young peasant who had yellow hair, like  
Cæsar. He was a farm-boy who had lived  
since his birth within a rod of my monu-  
ment; he had heard me in the morning  
asking for information in the court-yard  
of the ruins, and had obediently volun-  
teered to show me the way to the ruins, which  
were the first thing he had seen on com-  
ing into the world. I had no need what-  
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